

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Board of Education of the West Babylon Union Free School District, of the Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York was held on TUESDAY, September 30, 2014, in the Board Room of the Administration Wing adjacent to the Senior High School.

Those present: Trustees Lucy Campasano, Raymond Downey, Cathy Gismervik, Diane Klein, Dennis Kranz (arrived 8:00), Jennifer Longo, Peter Scarlatos, Stacy Villagran and Jennifer Wandasiewicz

Also present: Mr. Anthony Cacciola, Superintendent; Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel; Mrs. Christine Tona, Executive Director for Curriculum & Instruction; Mrs. Michele Psarakis, Executive Director for Finance and Operations; Mrs. Amy E. Jones, District Clerk; Mr. William C. Morrell, Attorney and residents

The President opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge to the Flag

Mr. Cacciola said that Mr. Fred Seeba from BBS Architects is here to finalize the scope of work for the proposed Capital Project and Ms. Kathy Beatty from Syntax is here to share ideas to promote the Capital Project. He asked the trustees to consider an alternate date for the vote. He said that the timeframe of the current date of December 2 would be tight to get the publications to the papers and to have the information to the public. He suggested holding the vote on any of the following dates; December 16, 2014; January 6, or January 13, 2015. He also asked that the trustees consider making two propositions instead of one. In response to Board Vice President Scarlato's question about why he wants two propositions, Mr. Cacciola shared that having the two propositions gives the community the opportunity to vote on what must be done in terms of repairs and maintenance and then separately to approve the other items. He said if they feel strongly about the fields and other enhancements, they will vote yes for both. However, if there is one proposition and it doesn't pass, then the necessary repairs will have to come from the district's budget. The trustees discussed the cost of a turf infield and the cost to purchase a machine that the district can use to maintain the turf field. There was a discussion about putting the turf infield on the "B" list. Board President Campasano requested that the HS cafeterias be air conditioned if there are funds left after the project. Mr. Seeba said he will look into it. Mrs. Psarakis reviewed the financial aspect of the project (on file in the District Clerk's office). She explained that if the project is not approved, the repair moneys will have to come from the current year's budget with no building aid. She said the actual cost to the district for an approximately 30 million dollar capital project would be just under 14 million dollars. In response to Board President Lucy Campasano's question about why the district does a 15 year bond instead of a 20 year bond, Mr. Seeba said that the Board can only have a bond for the life expectancy of the items in the bond.

Kathy Beatty said that Syntax will begin with their publicity once the Board approves moving forward with the Capital Project. Ms. Beatty reviewed the pros of holding a bond vote vs using the year to year budget. She said the marketing campaign will include information in our newsletter, newspapers and on the district's website. She said that generally Newsday will do press releases at no cost to the district.

The Board discussed the various pros and cons of all of the dates Mr. Cacciola suggested.

Upon motion of Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Wandasiewicz with Trustees Klein and Villagran in favor, the motion to hold the vote on December 16, 2014 was defeated.

Upon motion of Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Kranz with no other trustees in favor, the motion to hold the vote on January 6, 2015 was defeated.

Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Downey made a motion to hold the vote on January 13, 2015

Voting Yes: Trustees: Campasano, Downey, Gismervik, Klein, Kranz, Longo, Scarlatos and Wandasiewicz

Voting No: Trustee Villagran

The motion was **CARRIED**

Trustee Scarlatos asked if there is one proposition and the project is defeated, can the Board put the project up as two propositions. Mr. Morrell said that the Board can do a second vote as two propositions.

Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Gismervik made a motion to have one proposition for the capital project instead of two.

Voting Yes: Trustees: Campasano, Downey, Gismervik, Klein, Kranz, Scarlatos and Wandasiewicz

Voting No: Trustees Longo and Villagran

The motion was **CARRIED**

Trustee Gismervik seconded by Trustee Villagran made a motion to allow the public to comment even though the public notice stated that there would be no public comments.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

#### **STATEMENT OF RESIDENTS:**

Resident John Evola said that if there is only one proposition he will have to vote no. He said he believes the necessities and frivolous items should be separate. In response to Mr. Evola's question about the additional cost for the publicity, Mr. Cacciola explained that Syntax is the district's publicity firm paid annually and there is no additional fee for the capital project publicity they provide.

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In response to resident Christine Taylor's question, Mrs. Campasano said that there have been no final decisions about which items will be on the A list vs the B list. Ms. Taylor said that she doesn't think she can support this project without more details. Mr. Cacciola said that the A list will contain the priority items and which items are repaired first will be based on State Ed. Approvals, etc.

Resident William Smith said that he agrees with having one proposition.

Resident Joseph Rehor spoke about the bad condition of the fields. He said that the district is opening itself up to lawsuits. He also noted that recently William Smith had to cut the grass on the field so the students could play.

Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Gismervik made a motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

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District Clerk